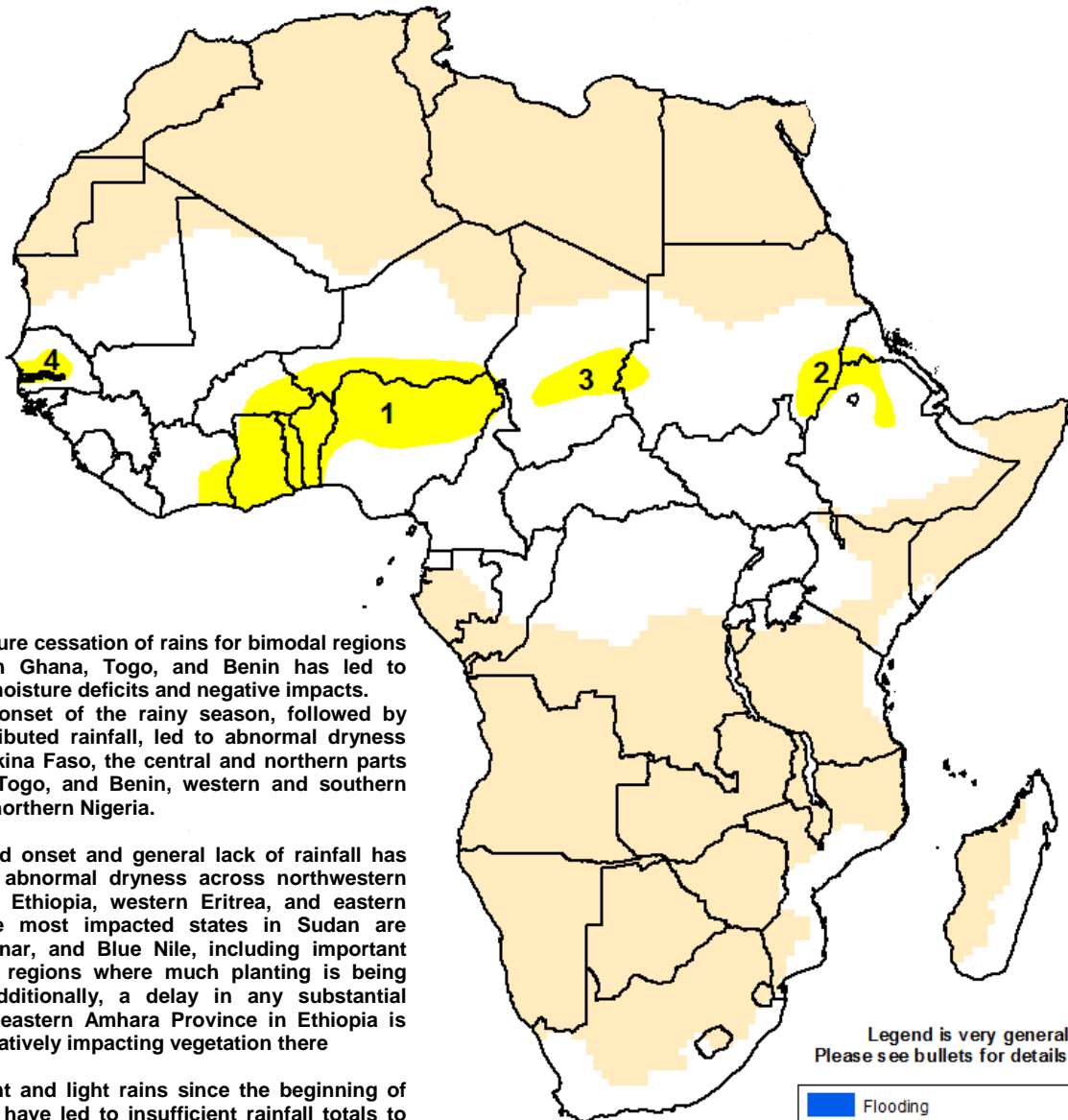




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook July 30 – August 5, 2015

- Abnormally wet conditions are continuing for several nations in the western Gulf of Guinea region
- Moisture deficits worsen further in southeast Sudan, Eritrea and parts of Ethiopia with a continued lack of rainfall.



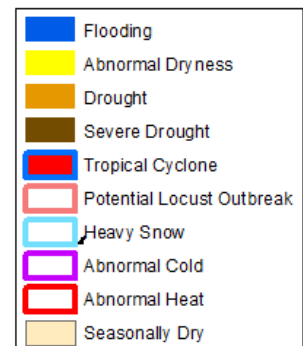
1. A premature cessation of rains for bimodal regions of southern Ghana, Togo, and Benin has led to increased moisture deficits and negative impacts. A delayed onset of the rainy season, followed by poorly-distributed rainfall, led to abnormal dryness across Burkina Faso, the central and northern parts of Ghana, Togo, and Benin, western and southern Niger, and northern Nigeria.

2. A delayed onset and general lack of rainfall has resulted in abnormal dryness across northwestern portions of Ethiopia, western Eritrea, and eastern Sudan. The most impacted states in Sudan are Gadaref, Sinar, and Blue Nile, including important agricultural regions where much planting is being delayed. Additionally, a delay in any substantial rainfall for eastern Amhara Province in Ethiopia is already negatively impacting vegetation there

3. Infrequent and light rains since the beginning of the season have led to insufficient rainfall totals to date for some southern portions of Chad. Affected regions include Batha, Biltine, and Ouaddai. A rainfall performance between 5 and 50% of normal thus far has led to low soil moisture and poor conditions for vegetation.

4. A slightly delayed start to the season with only sporadic light rains in recent weeks has resulted in abnormal dryness for Gambia and central areas of Senegal. Dry ground conditions have reportedly led to delayed planting and negatively impacted the

Legend is very general.
Please see bullets for details.



Very heavy rainfall observed in Guinea, Sierra Leone and Guinea-Bissau

During the past week, enhanced, even torrential, rainfall was observed again across the westernmost countries of the Gulf of Guinea Region. Localized areas in Senegal, Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia received greater than 200mm of rainfall (**Figure 1**). Additionally, central and northern parts of Nigeria received heavy amounts greater than 100mm. Satellite observations indicate that rainfall was light or nonexistent across many bimodal areas along the Gulf of Guinea coast. The driest regions, at present, in Chad received near-normal precipitation while the northern two thirds of Senegal generally remained drier than average for another week.

Analyzing the percentage of normal rainfall over the past 30-days reveals several areas of significant dryness. Gambia and the northern two thirds of Senegal continue to show 25-80% of normal rainfall. Regions of eastern Chad into Sudan indicate between 25-80% of rainfall after very sporadic rainfall to date. Portions of central and eastern Niger also show localized percentages less than 50%. Decreasing percentages are observed across coastal regions of the Gulf of Guinea, especially southern Cote D'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, and Benin. This season has been characterized by a quick cessation of rainfall for these bimodal areas, leading to growing moisture deficits in recent weeks. Areas of Nigeria and Burkina Faso that experienced a poor beginning to the season report improvements.

The forecast for the upcoming outlook period shows that heavy rains are expected to continue for the countries of the western Gulf of Guinea Region. The region of enhanced rains is expected to spread eastward across West Africa along and just to the south of the Sahel. Local amounts in many areas could exceed 100mm. The enhancement of rains is likely to include parts of Gambia and Senegal, in which they will be especially beneficial. There is also evidence that rain may remain limited for the region's bimodal areas.

Delayed seasonal rains in central and northern Ethiopia continue to characterize the pattern in Eastern Africa.

During the past week, observed rainfall was still suppressed in central and northern areas of Ethiopia according to satellite estimates (**Figure 3**). Parts of western Ethiopia and southeastern South Sudan received the heaviest rains (>100mm). Widespread moderate rains generally covered the rest of the region. The pattern resulted in drier-than-normal conditions for Ethiopia, eastern Sudan and Eritrea that added to already existing moisture deficits. The effects of significant moisture deficits (>100mm) are being felt on the ground as evidenced by vegetation indices and the WRSI. Because of the extremely poor "Belg" season, rift valley regions of Ethiopia will be especially sensitive to moisture deficits. In the eastern Amhara Province, NDVI indices are already quite poor only a few weeks into the season.

During the upcoming outlook period, enhanced rains are expected for the western provinces of Ethiopia. Local amounts greater than 150mm are possible. Rainfall in north-central Ethiopia should remain suppressed. Another week of below-average rainfall in the Amhara Province warrants the expansion of abnormal dryness there.

Note: The hazards outlook map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

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